

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data management system comprising:

acceptance means for accepting various retrieval conditions for
data storage means in which data belonging to any of multiple managed
5 objects are stored;

retrieval means for retrieving data adapted to each of the accepted
retrieval conditions from the data storage means and specifying a
managed object to which the retrieved data belong; and

holding means for holding identification information for identifying
10 the managed object specified by said retrieval means as part of a collection
of retrieval results collected for each retrieval condition,

wherein the collection held in said holding means is set as a target
of retrieval instead of said data storage means.

2. The data management system according to claim 1, further
15 comprising external data taking-in means for taking in data created in an
external system and containing identification information on the managed
object to add the identification information contained in the taken-in data
as part of a corresponding collection.

3. The data management system according to claim 2, wherein
20 said external data taking-in means is configured to take in the data
created in the external system in the form of a list for each managed
object to add the identification information to the collection on a list basis.

4. The data management system according to claim 1, further
comprising computation means for performing a logical operation between
25 two or more collections to create a new collection so as to make said
holding means hold the newly created collection.

5. The data management system according to claim 4, wherein

said holding means includes temporary storage means for temporarily storing the collections before held therein, such that said computation means performs the logical operation between the collections stored in said temporary storage means while storing the new collection in said temporary storage means.

6. The data management system according to claim 5, further comprising modification means for modifying the collections stored in said temporary storage means.

7. A data management system comprising:
acceptance means for accepting various retrieval conditions for a plurality of data storage means in which plural kinds of customer data identifiable by each ID are distributively stored;

retrieval means for retrieving data adapted to each of the accepted retrieval conditions from any one of said data storage means and specifying a customer ID of the data retrieved;

holding means for holding the ID specified by said retrieval means as part of a collection of retrieval results collected for each retrieval condition; and

means for taking in customer-related data created in an external system and containing the ID to add the ID contained in the taken-in data as part of the collection held in said holding means,

wherein the collection held in said holding means is set as a target of retrieval instead of said plurality of data storage means.

8. The data management system according to claim 7, further comprising computation means for performing a logical operation between two or more collections to create a new collection so as to make said holding means hold the newly created collection.

9. A computer-based data management method implemented on a computer connected to data storage means in which data belonging to any of multiple managed objects are stored, the data management method comprising the steps of:

- 5 accepting various retrieval conditions;
 retrieving data adapted to each of the accepted retrieval conditions from said data storage means and specifying a managed object to which the retrieved data belong; and
 holding identification information for identifying the specified
10 managed object in certain holding means as part of a collection of retrieval results collected for each retrieval condition,
 wherein the collection held in said holding means is set as a target of retrieval instead of said data storage means.

10. A computer program which enables data retrieval on a
15 computer connected to data storage means in which data belonging to any of multiple managed objects are stored, the computer program comprising the steps of:

- accepting various retrieval conditions;
 retrieving data adapted to each of the accepted retrieval conditions
20 from said data storage means and specifying a managed object to which the retrieved data belong; and
 holding identification information for identifying the specified managed object in certain holding means as part of a collection of retrieval results collected for each retrieval condition,
25 wherein the collection held in said holding means is set as a target of retrieval instead of said data storage means.